

### Effect of Tick Bite on Man.

A number of cases of paralysis due to ticks have been seen by medical men in the interior of the province. The majority of cases occurred in children, but it has been seen in a youth of eighteen and twice in adult men.

The symptoms vary slightly in individual cases, but can be stated to be generally as follows: The patient perfectly well one day, may on the next complain of a numbness in the feet and legs and have difficulty in walking; a little later it may be impossible to stand up. The hands and arms are usually affected next. Often there is a partial paralysis of the throat muscles, there being difficulty in swallowing. The tongue is affected, there being difficulty in speaking properly; it may be impossible to protrude the tongue, or if the tongue is protruding it may be impossible to withdraw it. Constitutional symptoms are slight; there may be some restlessness in the early stages, or the patient may complain of feeling a bit seedy. There is no pain, and usually no fever, but the pulse is faster.

In two cases certain parts of the legs and arm had lost all sense of feeling, and a slight rash was seen on the chest and upper arm. Both of these symptoms are unusual.

With the exception of the two cases just mentioned it may be said that paralysis is confined to the nerves governing movement, and does not affect the special senses.

The time from the beginning of symptoms to complete paralysis and even death may be less than two days but is usually from three to five days. The chances of recovery are good if the organs of respiration or the heart are not affected.

*Treatment.*—Medical aid should be secured if possible. A search should be made for one or more ticks, especially around the nape of the neck, in the hair, and on the back and chest. The female tick will by this time be bluish in colour and about the size of a large bean, and should be found with comparative ease. In removing a tick care should be taken not to leave the head in the skin, otherwise it is liable to cause intense irritation, with the probable formation of an abscess or of an ulcer that is hard to heal. They may be made to lose their hold by covering them with kerosene, gasoline, oil of turpentine, or carbolized vaseline; touching with the hot end of a cigarette will also prove effective. They should be removed with a gentle pull, and if necessary the small piece of skin containing the head can be snipped off with a pair of scissors.

### Eradication.

Ticks may be controlled (1) by treating affected stock with an arsenical dip which kills the ticks before egg laying begins, and (2) by destroying the small mammals upon which the young *D. venustus* ticks feed, by the use of poisoned bait or other means.

The following formula will be found effective against ground squirrels (gophers): Dissolve one teaspoonful of saccharine and one ounce of bicarbonate of soda in four quarts of water, add half a pound of gloss starch and heat the mixture until it is thick but do not cook, stirring all the time. To this solution add one ounce of powdered strychnine and mix it well. Pour this mixture over twelve quarts of whole oats or eight quarts of crushed oats, and mix it so that the grain is thoroughly covered with a poisonous coating.

About a teaspoonful of this grain should be placed in each gopher hole, and for preference on clean hard ground.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

- Fig. 1. Male *D. venustus*, enlarged.  
 Fig. 1a. Male *D. venustus*, approximately actual size.  
 Fig. 2. Female *D. venustus*, enlarged (unengorged).  
 Fig. 2a. Female *D. venustus*, approximately actual size (unengorged).  
 Fig. 2b. Female *D. venustus*, approximately actual size (gorged); some specimens are slightly larger than the one shown.